



Island Transportation Planning Organization

April 27, 2016

Bill Oakes

Public Works Director / County Engineer Island County Public Works

P.O. Box 5000

Coupeville, WA 98239

Dear Mr. Oakes:

We wish to express our support and concurrence for the New County Road project. This critically important project will provide a much needed detour route for SR-525 through an area of Whidbey Island where the state highway provides the sole transportation connection from north Whidbey Island to south Whidbey Island. SR-525 is currently the only surface transportation route connecting Coupeville and Oak Harbor in the north to Langley, Freeland and Clinton to the south.

New County Road will be a 1.5 mile long road segment that will connect Race Road with Houston Road to provide an alternative route to SR-525. An alternate route is much needed in the case of both minor and major disruptions. A number of collisions along this section of SR-525 have closed the road for a number of hours resulting in not only an inconvenience for the traveling public, but a concerning delay for emergency vehicles and private individuals in route to the hospital, as well as transit and freight and goods.

It would also serve as an important link for emergency management, providing an alternate route in the case of major events such as earthquake damage, terrorist activity, hazardous spills, or storm events.

The Island County New County Road project is a regionally significant project that is in the fiscal year 2016 Island Transportation Planning Organization Regional Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,

Helen Price Johnson, Chair
Island Transportation Planning Organization